

Representative Tom Allen's Comprehensive Small Business Initiative

Ensuring Adequate Funding for SBA Loans and Entrepreneurial Assistance Programs

Many Maine business owners can attribute their success not only to their hard work and perseverance, but also to assistance from Small Business Administration and National Institute of Standards of Technology support programs. These programs help small businesses in many ways, including securing financing for new equipment or expansion, obtaining technology through a sharing arrangement or receiving mentoring from successful executives willing to assist budding entrepreneurs.

However, in recent years, programs such as the Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, Women's Business Centers, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Advanced Technologies Program have been chronically under-funded. The SBA's highly successful 7(a) Loan Program—which helps secure billions of dollars in financing for small businesses—has also had to increase fees and costs to businesses because of budget choices.

The Small Business Investment and Promotion Act (H.R. 2133) reaffirms the importance of these programs and provides for their reauthorization at increased funding levels for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010. These changes would ensure that these highly successful and important programs continue supporting small businesses in Maine and throughout the United States.

Providing critical funding to small business assistance programs is a part of Rep. Allen's six-point plan to improve the small business climate in Maine and America.

Please call Rep. Allen's office or visit the website for more information.

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